

Table 2 Pharmacists' and health-care workers' (HCW) knowledge and practice of counselling about different topics concerning oral contraceptive pill (OCP) use and side-effects

Knowledge item	HCW (n = 150)			Pharmacists (n = 150)		
	% responding	% giving counselling on topic	P-value ^a	% responding	% giving counselling on topic	P-value ^a
Instructions for initiating and use of OCP						
Start OCP from 5th day of period and take 1 each day, 1 week gap, start a new pack			< 0.001			0.006
Correct	85.4	72.7		84.0	47.3	
Incorrect	14.7	2.7		12.0	2.7	
No response	0.0	0.0		4.0	0.7	
If user forgets to take ≥ 1: monophasic OCP, she should take			0.485			0.490
Correct		71.3			49.3	
1 tablet	45.3			92.0		
2 tablets	33.3			31.9		
> 2 tablets	20.0			33.3		
Incorrect	1.4	0.7		4.0	0.7	
No response	0.0	0.0		4.0	0.7	
If user forgets to take ≥ 1: triphasic OCP, she should take 2 tablets, if less than 12 h			0.149			0.072
Correct	65.3	48.0		54.0	20.0	
Incorrect	34.0	20.0		40.0	15.3	
No response	0.7	0.7		6.0	0.0	
Non-contraceptive benefits of OCP						
OCP should make periods lighter			0.313			0.414
Correct	94.7	60.7		74.0	17.3	
Incorrect	3.3	1.3		24.7	4.0	
No response	2.0	0.7		1.4	0.7	
OCP should make periods less painful			0.021			0.247
Correct	93.4	62.7		72.0	21.3	
Incorrect	4.0	2.7		25.3	4.0	
No response	2.7	0.0		2.7	0.7	
OCP and acne: continue tablet use and no need to visit doctor			0.220			0.097
Correct	60	29.3		66.0	22.7	
Incorrect	33.3	15.3		33.3	7.3	
No response	6.6	1.3		0.7	0.7	
Potential problems of OCP						
Use of OCP with certain other medications causes problems			0.396			0.405
Correct	88.0	60.0		89.4	30.7	
Incorrect	10.0	6.0		6.0	3.3	
No response	2.0	2.0		4.6	1.3	
If user does not have period after end of pack: start next pack on time and visit a doctor			0.523			0.167
Correct	50.7	36.0		50.0	12.0	
Incorrect	49.4	32.7		46.0	6.7	
No response	0.0	0.0		4.0	0.0	

Table 2 Pharmacists' and health-care workers' (HCW) knowledge and practice of counselling about different topics concerning oral contraceptive pill (OCP) use and side-effects (continued)

Knowledge item	HCW (n = 150)			Pharmacists (n = 150)		
	% responding	% giving counselling on topic	P-value ^a	% responding	% giving counselling on topic	P-value ^a
If user feels pain in thigh or calf: visit a doctor			0.872			0.363
Correct	82.0	54.0		81.4	16.7	
Incorrect	16.6	11.3		13.4	2.7	
No response	1.4	0.7		5.3	0.0	
If user feels severe headache: take a pain killer and visit a doctor			0.013			0.774
Correct	56.6	33.3		62.0	10.7	
Incorrect	42.0	32.0		30.7	4.7	
No response	1.3	0.0		7.4	0.7	
OCP side-effects						
If user gets break-through bleeding: continue OCP and visit a doctor			0.059			0.061
Correct	52.7	38.0		62.0	11.3	
Incorrect	46.0	28.7		31.3	4.0	
No response	1.3	0.0		6.7	0.7	
If user feels breast tenderness: continue OCP and visit a doctor			0.004			0.077
Correct	42.7	30.7		48.0	10.7	
Incorrect	55.3	28.0		42.0	4.0	
No response	2.0	0.0		10.0	0.7	
If user has nausea/vomiting: take OCP with food/with antiemetic/another time			0.001			0.019
Correct (at least 1 correct answer)	79.7	63.4		38.6	21.3	
Incorrect	17.4	6.7		56.7	20.0	
No response	2.0	0.0		4.7	0.7	
Controversies/ myths regarding OCP						
OCP user's weight stays constant over time			0.590			0.387
Correct	81.4	56.7		76.7	18.0	
Incorrect	16.0	12.0		20.6	3.3	
No response	2.6	1.3		2.7	0.0	
Users' chances of having children is unaffected by OCP use			0.366			0.943
Correct	82.0	56.7		60.7	12.7	
Incorrect	14.6	9.3		36.0	6.7	
No response	3.3	1.3		3.4	0.7	
OCP use causes dry mouth			0.067			0.462
Correct	32.6	19.3		42.0	8.0	
Incorrect	58.6	31.3		48.7	6.7	
No response	8.7	2.0		9.4	0.7	
Health risks of OCP						
Smoking increases OCP risks			0.324			0.143
Correct	86.0	54.7		70.0	10.7	
Incorrect	10.0	6.0		20.0	1.3	
No response	4.0	1.3		10.0	0.0	

Table 2 Pharmacists' and health-care workers' (HCW) knowledge and practice of counselling about different topics concerning oral contraceptive pill (OCP) use and side-effects (concluded)

Knowledge item	HCW (n = 150)			Pharmacists (n = 150)		
	% responding	% giving counselling on topic	P-value ^a	% responding	% giving counselling on topic	P-value ^a
OCP decreases breast cancer and ovarian cancer risks			0.523			0.701
Correct	41.3	26.0		30.0	6.0	
Incorrect	54.0	30.7		58.0	10.0	
No response	4.7	2.0		12.0	1.3	
OCP increases endocervical cancer risk			< 0.001			0.049
Correct	67.3	43.3		48.7	10.7	
Incorrect	30.0	8.7		40.0	3.3	
No response	2.7	0.0		11.4	0.7	

^aComparing total number responding to item versus number giving counselling about item.